

March 8, 2014

105 Ashford Rd.

Ashford, CT 06278

Dear Education Committee,

I respectfully submit my testimony in support of H.B. No. 5078: An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Please not only support this legislation, but consider drafting additional future legislation to permanently defund The Common Core.

The Common Core is an academic and fiscal disaster. It would also strike another blow to the individual freedoms and liberties our country was founded on and cherishes. Those same freedoms our beloved military have died for.

If The Common Core is allowed to be implemented in Connecticut, our state's educational system will further erode. Instead of producing men and women capable of using independent analysis for innovative solutions to life's difficult problems, we will produce people ready to take orders without dissent and question. How can we allow this to move forward when three out of the five members of The Common Core's own Validation Committee refused to ratify The Common Core based on charges of educational insufficiency? It is incomprehensible to me that a state internationally renowned for some of the finest institutions of secondary and post-secondary learning in the entire world, would want to dismantle that legacy, by stifling the very same creative genius process that gave rise to those very same institutions and replace it with academic inferiority.

The disaster that is The Common Core will not end in the destitution of genius. It will also be the death knell for any fiscal recovery. Instead of eradicating debt, an insurmountable billion dollar burden will be added to the already unsustainable debt our state faces. This additional debt would be unavoidable as The Common Core requires a draconian technological infrastructure to catalog and track every student from preschool to college. Big data costs big money. This is money we do not have to spend.

Finally, the destruction The Common Core will strike against our individual freedoms and liberties will be decisive. Connecticut will turn over more of its educational decision making power to our federal government. The Department of Education's unilateral revision of FERPA as well as its demand for cradle-to-college databases should be intolerable to us all. Do Connecticut citizens as well as the aforementioned fine private and public institutions of learning really want our federal government to dictate every nuance of education? Are we not capable of more than this mediocrity? Please, again I ask, do not let the sacrifice of our nation's finest be in vain. Do the right thing and support this legislation.

Very Truly Yours,

Susan C. Boyce